

RESOLUTION

R06-10

MEMBERS OF THE D.C. BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESENT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION ON

ENHANCING HIV/AIDS POLICY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (Board) recognizes that an alarming number of students in the District of Columbia (DC) are becoming infected with HIV/AIDS, the importance of educating students about the causes and behaviors that can lead to HIV/AIDS, and ways to combat this devastating disease;

WHEREAS, HIV/AIDS continues to devastate District of Columbia residents, with one in twenty people living with the disease;

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2004, the Board of Education appointed an Ad Hoc Committee on HIV/AIDS (Committee) to develop educational strategies and approaches, to establish educational goals and outcomes, and to identify roles for various entities involved in HIV/AIDS education in order to ensure the effective coordination of HIV/AIDS education in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that every student should receive age appropriate, medically accurate health education using scientifically proven methodologies which includes training on HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted disease prevention and treatment; as well as family life planning;

WHEREAS, the Superintendent is committed to addressing this important issue facing District of Columbia Public School students;

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Committee meetings had the participation of the Board Members, the Superintendent and staff, and Community Based Organizations (CBO's) throughout the District of Columbia who engaged in collaborative efforts to review data and best and promising practices;

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Committee created a list of recommendations that would seek to serve the students and the greater DCPS community;

WHEREAS, in August 2005, DC Appleseed released a report, *HIV/AIDS in the Nation's Capital: Improving the District of Columbia's Response to a Public Health Crisis*, which includes a section on HIV prevention in DC Public Schools;

WHEREAS, the DC Appleseed Report outlines the components of a successful HIV Prevention Program to include Curriculum; Professional Development; Collaboration and Coordination; and Monitoring, Data Collection, and Evaluation;

WHEREAS, DC Appleseed notes that the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on HIV/AIDS address many of the concerns facing DCPS; and

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Committee on HIV/AIDS recommends the adoption of the following recommendations:

- The Superintendent should consider creating a cabinet-level school health administrator who will oversee all DCPS health-related and health- promotion activities and ensure coordination of HIV/AIDS services with the schools;
- The Superintendent will convene a “Healthy Student, Healthy Schools” advisory committee that will include participation from a diverse group of stakeholders, including but not limited to, the DC Department of Health, Children’s National Medical Center, other local hospitals, the Mayor’s Office, the DC City Council, representatives from Community Based Organizations, the School-Based Health Coalition, school nurses, parents, religious leaders and students;
- The Superintendent will reach out to medical homes, whose mission is to strengthen and integrate the primary care safety net clinics for the uninsured and underinsured residents of the District for inclusion in the DCPS Strategic Health Plan;
- The Superintendent should recommend the revision of DCMR Title 5, Chapters 23 and 24 to comply and meet accepted DC and National Health Education Standards
- The Superintendent should recommend for Board approval comprehensive, pre-K through 12, Health Education standards and evidence-based evaluation standards for all health education programs including HIV education provided by DCPS;
- All DCPS students should have access to HIV/AIDS programs taught by trained professionals who receive periodic training from the District of Columbia Department of Health, the American Red Cross, the Federal Centers for Disease Control, or other recognized HIV/AIDS training and certificate-granting institutions or agencies;
- DCPS HIV/AIDS education efforts should ensure that efforts follow the epidemiology of the epidemic; focusing the most resources on reaching those at highest risk for HIV infection;
- DCPS must ensure the professional development and training of all persons working toward meeting health education standards, including principals, health and physical educators, and the community. Training should include issues of language and sexuality diversity;

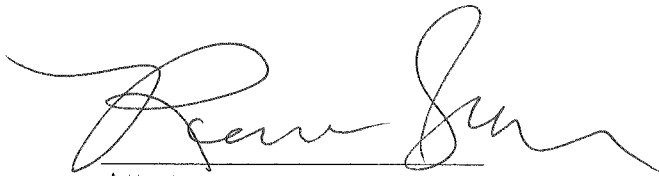
- District of Columbia Public Schools should adopt standards and training, approved by the Department of Health and based on Centers for Disease Control guidelines, for partner CBO's providing HIV/AIDS prevention programs in the schools;
- DCPS should instruct the School Health Administrator to create a system for assessing the number of students who meet or exceed proficiency in health education standards;
- DCPS should ensure that all data collection meets DC Department of Health, city and federal confidentiality standards;
- DCPS should improve communications with the public about DCPS HIV/AIDS and Student Sexuality programming including standards, curricula content, and related public policies, by creating a web-based venue for communicating vital information about their HIV/AIDS and health-related programs;
- The Board and DCPS will recommend and support legislation requiring all testing sites, which test youth and use government funds (federal & local), to provide counseling;
- DCPS should establish health and wellness peer support groups in all junior and senior high schools. Groups will be supported by health education instructors and counselors and will be linked to medical homes;
- DCPS should modify its immunization policy to exempt children and youth who are HIV-positive from immunization requests; and
- DCPS should include the health education, HIV/AIDS Education, and sexuality education standards, including professional development of staff in the Principals' annual evaluations.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the District of Columbia Board of Education forwards the recommendations in this resolution of the Ad Hoc Committee on HIV/AIDS to the Superintendent for his review.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in light of the urgency, the District of Columbia Board of Education directs the Superintendent to bring forth a resolution including final policy recommendations and an implementation plan, which includes a timeline, budget, and the feasibility of the cabinet level position within 90 days.

September 21, 2005

Date Adopted



Attest

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